

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MANILA 10290 050852Z
ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00
DODE-00 DOTE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 EPG-02 FAA-00 OC-06
CCO-00 L-03 SS-15 NSC-05 /055 W
-----053431 050854Z /20

R 050813Z JUL 77
FM AMEMBASSY MANILA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1925

CONFIDENTIAL MANILA 10290

E. O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: EAIR, RP
SUBJECT: PRESIDENT MARCOS DIVIDES PASSENGER AND FREIGHT RESPONSIBILITY BETWEEN TWO NATIONAL AIRLINES

1. IN A LETTER OF INSTRUCTION (AS YET UN-NUMBERED) PRESIDENT MARCOS HAS DIRECTED FOREIGN SECRETARY ROMULO TO TAKE STEPS AT DIPLOMATIC LEVEL TO AMEND EXISTING AIR TREATIES SO THAT PHILIPPINES WILL HAVE TWO DESIGNATED AIR CARRIERS: ONE FOR PASSENGERS AND ANOTHER FOR CARGO. PHILIPPINE AIRLINES (PAL) WILL CONTINUE TO SERVE AS PASSENGER CARRIER WHILE PHILIPPINES AEROTRANSPORT INC. (PATI) WILL HANDLE ALL CARGO AIR SERVICES.

2. MARCOS ALSO INSTRUCTED TOURISM SECRETARY ASPIRAS, WHO IS CHAIRMAN OF PHILCAB, TO ASSIST PATI IN OBTAINING FROM FOREIGN AERONAUTIC AUTHORITIES THE NECESSARY OPERATING PERMITS FOR SCHEDULED REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL AIR CARGO SERVICES.

3. PATI IS A SUBSIDIARY OF THE PHILIPPINE AERO SPACE DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION (PADC), A GOVERNMENT-CONTROLLED COMPANY WITH A NUMBER OF SUBSIDIARIES IN THE AVIATION FIELD. PADC IS CURRENTLY ENGAGED IN THE MANUFACTURE OF BN-ISLANDER AIRCRAFT AN IN SMALL SCALE, DOMESTIC AIR CARGO OPERATIONS, UTILIZING, PRINCIPALLY, FOUR C-130 AIRCRAFT.

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4. COMMENT: LOCAL AVIATION FIGURES SEE MARCOS' ACTION AS AN ADDITIONAL STEP TOWARD GAINING CONTROL OF PAL. RELATIONS BETWEEN MARCOS AND THE PAL PRESIDENT AND PRINCIPAL STOCK HOLDER, BENIGNO TODA, HAVE REPORTEDLY BEEN BAD FOR NUMBER OF MONTHS, AND THERE IS CONTINUED SPECULATION IN AVIATION CIRCLES HERE AS TO WHEN MARCOS WILL MOVE TO BRING PAL UNDER HIS CONTROL. PADC DOES NOT REPEAT NOT HAVE EQUIP-

MENT AND ORGANIZATION TO MOUNT REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL
CARGO SERVICE IN THE NEAR FUTURE. HOWEVER, PADC PRESIDENT
CAPTAIN ROBERTO H. LIM, CLAIMS HIS COMPANY WILL MOVE
RAPIDLY TO ASSUME ITS NEW CARGO RESPONSIBILITY.

5) IT IS NOT CERTAIN WHAT EFFECT MARCOS' ACTION WILL HAVE
ON FLYING TIGERS PERMIT TO OPERATE A CARGO FLIGHT TO MANILA.
WE HAVE HEARD THAT PAL HAS BEEN INSTRUMENTAL IN MOUNTING
PRESSURE WITHIN GOP TO CANCEL FT'S PERMIT. PRESSURE FROM PAL MAY
NOW DIMINISH SOMEWHAT ONLY TO BE REPLACED BY SIMILAR LOBBYING
EFFORTS FROM PADC.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESIDENT, CARGO HANDLING, POLICIES, PASSENGERS, AIRLINES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 05-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am
Decapton Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decapton Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977MANILA10290
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770237-0868
Format: TEL
From: MANILA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770792/aaaadcat.tel
Line Count: 74
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 221f5171-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EB
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 23-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1967430
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PRESIDENT MARCOS DIVIDES PASSENGER AND FREIGHT RES- PONSIBILITY BETWEEN TWO NATIONAL AIRLINES
TAGS: EAIR, RP
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/221f5171-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009